

What is claimed is:

1. A copyrighted work managing method for managing copyrighted work data transmitted on a communication network, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) detecting copyrighted work data from communication data transmitted from a client on the communication network;

10 (b) determining whether or not a user of the client has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected at the detecting step (a) against a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

15 (c) prohibiting the communication data from being transmitted corresponding to the determined result at the determining step (b).

2. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 1,

20 wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the copyright owner is notified that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

25 3. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not

performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the user is notified that he or she is prompted for performing the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

5           4.           The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 1,

                  wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, program data for causing the copyrighted work data to be prohibited from being transmitted is transmitted to the client.

10           5.           A copyrighted work managing apparatus for managing copyrighted work data transmitted on a communication network, comprising:

15                   detecting means for detecting copyrighted work data from communication data transmitted from a client on the communication network;

20                   determining means for determining whether or not a user of the client has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected by said detecting means against a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

25                   transmission prohibiting means for prohibiting the communication data from being transmitted corresponding to the determined result of said determining means.

6. A copyrighted work managing method for managing copyrighted work data transmitted on a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting copyrighted work data from communication data transmitted from a client on the communication network;

(b) determining whether or not a user of the client has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected at the detecting step (a) against a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

(c) notifying the user that he or she has not performed the copyright licensing process corresponding to the determined result at the determining step (b).

7. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the copyright owner is notified that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

8. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the

copyrighted work data, the communication data is prohibited from being transmitted.

9. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 8,

5 wherein program data for prohibiting the copyrighted work data from being transmitted is transmitted to the client so as to prohibit the communication data from being transmitted.

10. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 6,

10 wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the communication data for transmitting the copyrighted work data is destroyed.

11. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 10,

20 wherein program data for causing the communication data for transmitting the copyrighted work data to be destroyed is transmitted to the client so as to destroy the communication data.

12. A copyrighted work managing apparatus for managing copyrighted work data transmitted on a communication network, comprising:

25 detecting means for detecting copyrighted work data from communication data transmitted from a client on the communication network;

determining means for determining whether or not the user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected by said detecting means against a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

notifying means for notifying the user that he or she has not performed the copyright licensing process corresponding to the determined result of said determining means.

13. A copyrighted work managing method for managing copyrighted work data transmitted on a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting copyrighted work data from communication data transmitted from a client on the communication network;

(b) determining whether or not the user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected at the detecting step (a) against a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

(c) destroying the communication data corresponding to the determined result at the determining step (b).

14. The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 13,

wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not

performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the copyright owner is notified that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

5        15.        The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 13,

          wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the user is notified that he or she is prompted for performing the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

10       16.        The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 13,

          wherein when the determined result at the determining step (b) represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, program data for causing the communication data for transmitting the copyrighted work data to be destroyed is transmitted to the client.

15       17.        A copyrighted work managing apparatus for managing copyrighted work data transmitted on a communication network, comprising:

          detecting means for detecting copyrighted work data from communication data transmitted from a client on the communication network;

          determining means for determining whether or

not the user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected by said detecting means against a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

- 5                   destroying means for destroying the communication data corresponding to the determined result of said determining means.